

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Bernd Karner

Serial No.: Not Known Yet

Filing Date: Herewith

Title: Method For Network Medium Access Control

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**Preliminary Amendment**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box Patent Application  
Washington D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please preliminarily amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the Specification**

Immediately after the title and before the heading "Description", please insert the following sentence:

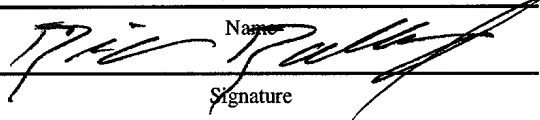
--The present application claims priority to German Patent Application Number 100 17 747.6,  
filed on April 10, 2000.--

Express Mail mailing label number EL501538086US

Date of Deposit April 6, 2001

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with  
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Patents, Washington D.C. 20231

Brian Ballard

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

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**In the Abstract**

Please substitute the Abstract as originally filed for the Abstract below. Specific Amendments to the Abstract can be found in the Appendix entitled Clean Version of Abstract.

Please remove the reference numerals from the Abstract to make it read as follows:

--The invention relates to a method for medium access control by transmission units for data transmission over a network, wherein data from a transmission unit can be transmitted over the network within cyclical time slots. The method is particularly suited as a control protocol in a local power line network within a building. It is proposed that access to a non-occupied time slot by a plurality of transmission units is controlled in that one of said transmission units wins the corresponding time slot of the next cycle based on comparing priority values. Each priority value is determined by the type, the amount and/or a time delay of the data to be transmitted, and the corresponding time slot of the following cycle is reserved for data transmission by said winning transmission unit.

**In the Claims**

Please add claims 14 and 15 as follows:

14. (New) A method for time division multiplexed data transmission within cyclically arranged time slots, comprising the following steps:

providing each of a plurality of contending transmission units within one of said time slots with a respective priority value;

comparing the priority values of the contending transmission units within the corresponding time slot of the following cycle, wherein the contending transmission unit with the highest priority wins the

contention, and reserving the corresponding time slot of a further following cycle for data transmission by the winning transmission unit.

15. (New) The method according to claim 14, further comprising determining from the plurality of contending transmission units whether a corresponding time slot of a following cycle will be available for data transmission.

**Remarks**

The above amendments have been made to place the application in better condition for examination and to clarify the priority claim.

The above amendments add one additional independent claim. The Office is authorized hereby to charge any additional fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account 04-1420.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to expedite allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

April 6, 2001

By \_\_\_\_\_

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**Abstract**

The invention relates to a method for medium access control by transmission units [(2)] for data transmission over a network [(1)], wherein data from a transmission unit [(2)] can be transmitted over the network within cyclical time slots. The method is particularly suited as a control protocol in a local power line network within a building. It is proposed that access to a non-occupied time slot [(8)] by a plurality of transmission units [(2)] is controlled in that one of said transmission units [(2)] wins the corresponding time slot [(9)] of the next cycle based on comparing priority values. Each priority value is determined by the type, the amount and/or a time delay of the data to be transmitted, and the corresponding time slot of the following cycle is reserved for data transmission by said winning transmission unit[(2)].